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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**
9 **AT SEATTLE**

10 STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

11 v.
12 Plaintiffs,

13 DONALD J. TRUMP, in his official
14 capacity as President of the United States of
15 America, et al.,

16 Defendants.

17 NO.

18 DECLARATION OF S.O.

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DECLARATION OF S.O.

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON
Complex Litigation Division
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 464-7744

1 I, S.O., declare as follows:

2 1. I am competent to testify as to the matters herein, and make this declaration based
3 on my personal knowledge.

4 2. I am 14 years old and live in Spokane, Washington. I am transgender and
5 nonbinary. Being nonbinary means that I do not identify with any binary gender, including the
6 gender I was assigned at birth. In my case, being transgender means that I have socially and
7 medically transitioned to achieve a gender presentation that matches my nonbinary experience
8 of gender. I use they/them pronouns.

9 3. I am using my initial to identify myself for the purposes of this declaration and
10 not my name. I am doing so because I am afraid for my safety if people know that I am
11 transgender and that I participated in this lawsuit.

12 4. I understand from my parents that I first began showing signs of gender
13 nonconforming behavior when I was as young as five years old. I know that I began to
14 consciously suspect that I might be transgender when I was nine. So I have been thinking about
15 my gender identity for a long time.

16 5. I finally came out as transgender when I was 12 years old. When I first came out,
17 it wasn't all the way. I was at a theater improv class and was asked to introduce myself and
18 identify my pronouns. Initially I answered "she/her," but immediately felt a voice inside myself
19 that said "No—that's not right." So I corrected myself, saying instead that my pronouns were
20 they/them. This was the first step of my transition.

21 6. The feelings that led me to that point were very uncomfortable. As my body
22 developed, I felt wrong in a way that words can't describe. I am aware that many young people
23 experiencing puberty may feel wrong or off as their bodies change, but this was more than a
24 simple inconvenience. I felt disassociated, not present in my own life. I really felt I was living
25 someone else's life—looking through the world through someone else's eyes. I knew this was
26 connected to my gender identity. It felt like looking in a mirror and seeing a girl, and

1 understanding that that was the person the world saw when they looked at me, but also knowing
 2 that that person was *not* me—she was a different person. The first time I learned that there was
 3 such a thing as trans and nonbinary people, I realized that might be who I was.

4 7. When I told my parents I was trans and nonbinary, they were initially confused,
 5 but they supported me. Neighborhood friends and some family members were less supportive.
 6 Though when a neighborhood friend has trouble being supportive, I suspect that it might be their
 7 parents, and not them, who have the issue with my identity.

8 8. Later, my dad told me that he had observed me in the place where I was feeling
 9 disassociated. His word was “detached.” He noticed that when I was forced to, for example,
 10 choose a gendered bathroom, I would panic, and freeze up.

11 9. About six months after the incident at my improv class, I began seeing a
 12 gender-affirming therapist. The therapist has been very helpful to me. They help me with all
 13 kinds of issues in my life. They help me deal with transphobia, and how to talk to my parents
 14 about gender-affirming care, but they also help me with so many issues not related to my gender
 15 identity. One example is learning how better to verbalize emotions, a skill I have sometimes
 16 struggled with. I worked with this therapist for about nine months, and received an official
 17 diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

18 10. About one and a half years ago, I chose a new name. My family recently helped
 19 me make this official with a legal name change.

20 11. In the fall of 2024, my family and I researched puberty blocking medication to
 21 see whether it would be a good fit for me. From this research I learned that puberty blockers
 22 wouldn’t change me, they would just buy me time before permanent developmental changes
 23 took place. The medication would give me time to explore my gender identity. Though that idea
 24 appealed to me, I still thought long and hard about whether to seek puberty blockers. I researched
 25 the risks and benefits, talked to my therapist, and talked to my parents. In the end I decided to
 26 seek puberty blockers as a form of gender-affirming care.

1 12. Though I have only been on puberty blockers for a short time, there are already
2 positive effects. My dad tells me that he sees a difference in me; I was clearly depressed before,
3 but I appear happier now. My dad is right. I am the happiest I have been in my entire life. Since
4 beginning puberty blockers, I have tried new things. I recently auditioned for a play. And I feel
5 more drawn to community involvement. I have also experienced some surprising changes. I am
6 more comfortable now with physical touch, which used to give me stress. And while it used to
7 be hard for me to tolerate other people's music, I don't have as much difficulty with that now. I
8 feel more openminded.

9 13. I understand that the President of the United States has issued an Executive Order
10 that would restrict and prevent gender affirming care for people under age 19. The federal
11 government's policy will have a variety of negative impacts on me. For example, if I were
12 prevented from obtaining puberty blockers, I could experience unwanted developmental
13 changes. I believe that I would also struggle with anxiety as I did previously. The absent,
14 disassociated, withdrawn feelings I used to struggle with would likely return.

15 14. I have considered starting hormone replacement therapy before age 19,
16 specifically small doses of testosterone. I have also considered surgical transition care (top
17 surgery). The Executive Order would make both impossible. That possibility is scary to me, and
18 also highly frustrating. Right now, I can research and consider these options for myself, with the
19 help of my parents and doctors. Maybe through thoughtful reflection and research I would
20 conclude that those were good gender-affirming care options for me; maybe I would conclude
21 that they weren't. But through the Executive Order, the federal government has decided that it
22 is going to choose for me. I believe this violates my legal rights and puts my health at risk.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington and the
2 United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.

3 DATED this 5th day of February 2025 at Spokane, Washington.

4 
5 S.O.
6 Trans Youth
7 
8 T.O.
9 Parent of S.O.